

November 1, 1892.

Sir W. H. Flower, K.C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following reports on the additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, and September, 1892:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of June were 132, of which 49 were acquired by presentation, 43 by purchase, 21 by birth, 9 were received in exchange, and 10 on deposit. The number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 90.

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of July were 165; of these 92 were acquired by presentation, 27 by purchase, 2 by exchange, 34 by birth, and 10 were received on deposit. The number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 73.

The most noticeable acquisition during the month was a young Gibbon from Hainan, South China, of a uniform black colour, belonging to the species recently described (Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. 6, ix. p. 145, 1892) by Mr. Oldfield Thomas as *Hylobates hainanus*. The Society are indebted to Mr. Julius Neumann, of Hoihow, Hainan, China, for this interesting animal, which is new to the Collection.

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of August were 151; of these 57 were acquired by presentation, 34 by purchase, 5 by birth, 8 by exchange, and 47 were received on deposit. The number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 71.

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of September were 99; of these 49 were acquired by presentation, 27 by purchase, 12 were bred in the Gardens, and 11 were received on deposit. The number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 108.

The most noticeable addition during the month was a young male Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) from Tavoy, Burmah, presented by Col. F. M. Jenkins. The general colour of this animal is that of the adult, but the spots of immaturity are still visible on the legs.

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Mr. E. Hartert exhibited examples of two new Mammals from Dutch New Guinea (*Proechidna nigro-acuteata* and *Acrobates pulchellus*<sup>1</sup>), and a stuffed specimen of *Apteryx maxima*, belonging to the Tring Museum.

<sup>1</sup> See below, p. 545.

The following letter, addressed to the Secretary by Lord Lilford, F.Z.S., was read :—

“SIR,

I think that it may interest some Members of the Society to hear that a pair of Demidoff's Galagos (*Galago demidoffi*), purchased by me from Mr. A. E. Jamrach on October 9, 1891, produced a young one on April 28 ult., in a cage here. The infant was blind for several days: its fur was very short and of a lighter colour than that of its parents, which were both most careful and very jealous of their offspring. I am glad to be able to add that we have succeeded in keeping these three very interesting little animals alive and in excellent health to the date of this writing on a diet composed principally of cockroaches, mealworms, bread and milk, with occasionally a little fruit.

“I remain,

“Yours &c.,

“LILFORD.”

“Lilford Hall, Oundle,  
October 19, 1892.”

Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell stated that Mr. Carruthers, Keeper of the Botanical Department of the British Museum, had handed him a fine specimen of *Bipalium kewense*, found in one of the warm houses at Straffan House, Kildare. So far as Prof. Bell knew, this was the first occasion on which this now widely-spread species had been recorded from Ireland.

Prof. Newton, M.A., F.R.S., Vice-President, on exhibiting (on behalf of Mr. John Cordeaux) the skin of an immature *Sylvia nisoria*, shot at Easington, near Spurn Point in Yorkshire, on the 19th ult., remarked as follows:—“When on the 4th March, 1879 (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1879, p. 219), I had the privilege of calling the notice of the Society to what I believed to be the remains of the first example of *Sylvia nisoria* obtained in England, some of my friends thought me rather rash in placing confidence in a specimen which had remained unrecognized for about forty years, and had in the meanwhile changed owners more than once. My conduct on that occasion has been in some way justified by the recognition since that time of the occurrence of this species in various parts of the United Kingdom, and I have now to lay before the Society an example which has been killed in Yorkshire within the last fortnight, and sent to me by Mr. Cordeaux for examination. The skin is that of a young bird of the present year, and I may add that no doubt can be entertained of its having been shot, as he informs me, at Easington, on the 19th October, 1892, by Mr. Jalland.

“I have long wished to refer to this species the ‘East Woodhay Warbler,’ *Sylvia bidehensis*, described and figured by the late Hon. and Rev. W. H. Herbert in the edition (published in 1833, anonymously, but commonly associated with his name) of White’s ‘Natural History of Selborne’ (pp. 129, 130 note, and titlepage); and despite some manifest discrepancies, due perhaps to his having only seen and not procured the birds, I cannot but think that those

which he observed, and possibly those seen by Mr. Sweet near Bristol, may have belonged to *Sylvia nisoria*—a species with which British ornithologists had at that time little or no acquaintance.”

Mr. F. Finn, F.Z.S., gave an account of his recent zoological excursion to Zanzibar, and of the principal animals observed at Lamu, Zanzibar, and Mombasa.

Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, F.Z.S., read a description of a remarkable new Echinoderm of the genus *Cidaris* from Mauritius, taken from a specimen recently transmitted to the British Museum by M. de Robillard. Prof. Bell proposed to call this species *Cidaris curvatispinis*.

This paper will be published in the Society's 'Transactions.'

A communication was read from Sir Edward Newton, K.C.M.G., C.M.Z.S., and Hans Gadow, Ph.D., M.A., F.R.S., F.Z.S., containing an account of some of the bones of the Dodo and other extinct birds of Mauritius, recently obtained by Mr. Theodore Sauzier, of which the following is an abstract:—

In 1889 the Government of Mauritius appointed a Commission to enquire into the “Souvenirs Historiques” of that island; and in furtherance of their object, at the instance of and under the able direction of their President, Mr. Theodore Sauzier, they continued the exploration of the Mare aux Songes—the marsh in which the late Mr. George Clark, upwards of five-and-twenty years ago, made the discovery of a vast deposit of bones of the Dodo<sup>1</sup> and other animals, mostly now extinct, and the only locality in Mauritius, except Riche Mare, in the district of Flacq, where remains of the Dodo have been found<sup>2</sup>.

This exploration has been very successful, for not only have many Dodos' bones, some of them new and others represented only by imperfect specimens, been recovered, but also a considerable number of the bones of other birds, materially adding to our knowledge of those that had been but partially described, and proving the former existence in Mauritius of species either vaguely indicated by old voyagers or wholly unsuspected to have been members of its fauna. Beside these there have been found many remains of the large extinct Lizard, *Didosaurus mauritianus*<sup>3</sup>, and several carapaces, plastrons, and skulls, more or less entire, though none absolutely perfect, belonging to one or other of the extirpated Tortoises.

Nearly the whole of these specimens have been sent by Mr. Sauzier, on behalf of the Commission over which he presided, to the Museum at Cambridge, with a view to their determination and to the description of such as are new, and this task has been undertaken by the present writers.

Before proceeding to its execution, it may be as well to recall the

<sup>1</sup> Ibis, 1866, pp. 141 *et seqq.*

<sup>2</sup> Proceedings of the Zoological Society, 1890, pp. 402 *et seqq.*

<sup>3</sup> Günther, Journal of the Linnean Society, Zoology, xiii. pp. 322 *et seqq.*

fact that up to the present time, beside bones of *Didus ineptus*, those of the following birds have been obtained from this marsh and described as under:—

<i>Lophopsittacus mauritianus</i> (Owen).	Lower Jaw. Owen, Ibis, 1866, pp. 168 <i>et seqq.</i> Tibia. A. Milne-Edwards, Ann. Sc. Nat. sér. 5, vi. pp. 88 <i>et seqq.</i> (1866).
<i>Astur</i> , sp. indet. . . . .	Metatarsus. <i>Id. op. cit.</i> xix. art. 3 (1874).
<i>Ardea garzetta</i> , Linnæus.	Tibia. <i>Id. loc. cit.</i>
<i>Aphanapteryx broecki</i> (Schlegel).	Lower Jaw, Tibia, Metatarsus. <i>Id.</i> <i>op. cit.</i> x. pp. 325 <i>et seqq.</i> (1868).
<i>Fulica newtoni</i> , A. Milne- Edwards.	Pelvis, Tibia, Metatarsus. <i>Id. op. cit.</i> viii. pp. 195 <i>et seqq.</i> (1867).

All these are species which no longer occur in the island.

Bones of a species of *Phœnicopterus* have also been found (G. Clark, Ibis, 1866, p. 144, and A. Milne-Edwards, Ann. Sc. Nat. sér. 5, xix. art. 3).

The present collection contains not only bones of the above-named birds, but also those of a Finch (?), an Owl, four other species of Heron or Bittern, a Darter, a Gannet, a Goose, a Duck, a Grebe, two species of Pigeon, one of which is probably the extinct *Funingus (Alectorænas) nitidissimus*, a Waterhen, and two Petrels, of which we proceed to describe and characterize as new:—

*Strix (?) sauzieri*,  
*Astur alphonsi*,  
*Butorides mauritianus*,  
*Plotus nanus*,  
*Sarcidiornis mauritianus*, and  
*Anas theodori*.

In naming these species we wish by the first and last to commemorate the services to science of Mr. Sauzier; while the *Astur*, being in all probability identical with that recognized but left unnamed by Professor Milne-Edwards, may be appropriately dedicated to him.

Of birds previously distinguished we have now for the first time the following parts:—

*Didus ineptus*.—Atlas, Prepelvic or “intermediate” (18th) Vertebra, complete Pubic Bones, and Metacarpals.

*Lophopsittacus mauritianus*.—Sternum, Femur, Metatarsus, besides Lower Jaw far larger than that first described.

*Aphanapteryx broecki*.—Skull with Upper Jaw, third Cervical Vertebra, Pelvis, Humerus, Femur<sup>1</sup>.

*Fulica newtoni*.—Cervical Vertebrae (third and ninth or tenth), Sternum, Sacrum, Humerus, Ulna, and Femur<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> There is a large series of tibiae (39 right and 50 left), which must belong to one or the other of these two species, but except in a few cases it is impossible to distinguish between them.

One specimen at least of each of the bones now first described has been kindly presented by Mr. Sauzier, on behalf of the Commission of which he is President, to the Museum of the University of Cambridge, as well as a series of other bones in proportion to the extent of the collection. The remainder, including a magnificent skeleton, which has been mounted in that Museum and is doubtless the most complete in the world, of *Didus ineptus*, will be ultimately deposited in the Museum of Mauritius at Port Louis.

This memoir will be published entire in the 'Transactions.'

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The following papers were read:—

1. Descriptions of two new Mammals from New Guinea.

By the Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, F.Z.S.

[Received November 1, 1892.]

In the face of the very exhaustive and explicit paper by Mr. Oldfield Thomas in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1885, I should not venture to lay before the Society a description of a new Monotreme of the subfamily Echidnidæ, if I were not backed up by such an eminent zoologist as Dr. Günther. The latter agrees with me that, as we have so little real knowledge of the habits and distribution of the Monotremata, it is advisable to treat each form as a distinct geographical race until such time as we have a complete knowledge of all the forms and their exact geographical distribution.

1. *PROECHIDNA NIGRO-ACULEATA*, sp. nov.

From having had the specimen here described alive I was able to make a much more careful examination of it than if it had been a dried skin.

It differs from *Pr. bruijni* in its much larger size, extremely robust limbs, and much shorter claws. Another great point of difference lies in the hair, for while *Pr. bruijni* is covered with dense woolly brown hair, in which are imbedded the few and scattered spines, in the form before us the hair is long, bristly, and very sparingly sprinkled over the body, the legs being almost bare. In the new form the spines are almost as numerous as in *Echidna aculeata*, but are of great length and thickness and of a horny black colour; while in *Pr. bruijni* they are very few in number, short, thin, and of a pure white colour.

In *Pr. bruijni* the claws are solid and much longer than in *Pr. nigro-aculeata*, the middle claw of the fore foot being  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, while that of *Pr. nigro-aculeata* measures only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch.

In addition to this, all the claws of *Pr. nigro-aculeata* are much broader and considerably hollowed out on the under surface. Lastly, *Pr. nigro-aculeata* has a much longer and stouter tail than *Pr. bruijni*.